

*E. A. Bay*



# The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

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FEBRUARY 23rd, 1915.

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ISSUED MONTHLY  
FOR  
THE NATIONAL BEE-KEEPERS'  
ASSOCIATION OF N.Z.



PER ANNUM: **3/6** IN ADVANCE.



# National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

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The object of the Association is the Improvement of the Beekeeping Industry and furthering the interests and the prosperity of the Beekeepers throughout the Dominion.

Membership is extended to any Beekeeper who is in accord with the aims and objects of the Association, on payment of a small fee.

Read the Report of Conference, and see what the first year's work has done for the Beekeeper. We shall be glad to have you as a member.

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## DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS AFFILIATED.

Waikato Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., W. Hooper Teed, Waihou, Thames Valley.

Taranaki Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., H. W. Warcup, Hawera.

Canterbury Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., Miss Mackay, Sockburn.

Pahiatua Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., G. Bentley, Pahiatua.

Southland Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., L. Gardiner, 119 Elles Road, Invercargill.

South Canterbury Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., R. Lang, Geraldine.

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## OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND.

President: Mr. Jas. Allan, "Oakleigh," Wyndham.

Vice-President: Mr. J. S. Cotterell, Manawaru, Te Aroha.

Executive: Messrs. H. W. Gilling, Matapu, Taranaki; S. Hutchinson, Hamilton East; C. A. Jacobsen, Little River; A. Ireland, 24 Andover Street, Merivale, Christchurch.

General Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. R. W. Brickell, P.O. Box 572, Dunedin.

A large membership will give the Executive increased funds with which to develop the local and foreign markets and push the export trade. Increased demand will raise the value of your honey crop.

*E. A. Kemp*

# The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

The Official Organ of the  
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.

No. 8

DUNEDIN.

3/6 PER ANNUM.

## CHOOSING A SITE FOR AN APIARY.

One is often asked what constitutes a good site for an apiary, and frequently where such sites are available. While it is not always easy to advise with regard to the latter, a knowledge of the former will enable anyone to choose for themselves. The principal requirements for a good site are feed, shelter, and climate. Given the first and the last, the second may be provided.

In New Zealand a good clover locality is, of course, the one sought after. But clover alone is not all that is required. A good locality should provide in normal seasons a continuous source of nectar from September till April. In many localities October is a bad month, when it is most desirable that brood-rearing should be in full swing. The willows give the bees their first good start in the spring, commencing with the earliest, the goat willow, sometimes called palm willow (*Salix caprea*). Then the weeping willow follows, which is succeeded by the straight willow. These willows, if wanting, can soon be added to a locality, as they are quick growers from cuttings. Fruit bloom comes next, but few localities produce anything like a flow from this source, and the gap between willows and clover is the difficulty. Various deciduous trees bloom about this time, and these help a little, and should be considered in choosing a site; but in Canterbury and further north different species of eucalypti fill in the gap between willows and clover most satisfactorily. Unless there are large plantations in the neighbourhood the honey from this source will not appreciably flavour the crop, while the bees will work on eucalyptus flowers on days when nothing else would tempt them. I would suggest, then, a locality where the three varieties of willows are plentiful, some eucalypti, deciduous trees, such as horse-chestnut, elms, etc., and, of course, clover. A little native bush is a good stand-by in spring, but any quantity of it will darken the crop. Many small townships offer good sites on account of the waste lands attached, and the trees and gardens.

With regard to climate, a mild climate all the year round is not required. Many localities, particularly coastal districts, attract by the mildness of the winters. But these places are correspondingly cool in summer, which is a decided disadvantage. There are not many places in New Zealand where the winters are too severe, and none that I know of in the South Island where the summers are too hot. Avoid the sea-coast, and go where the summers are hot. It takes more bees to keep the hive warm than to keep it cool; it also takes a lot of honey.

With regard to shelter, one of the best trees to plant is the goat willow, mentioned above. Cuttings will grow almost anywhere, and the trees make handsome clumps about twenty feet high, covered in the early spring with pretty yellow catkins.

J. RENTOUL.

## Correspondence.

### BEEKEEPING FOR WOMEN.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I must heartily congratulate "Melissa" on her very able rejoinder to "W. B. K.," and I would suggest, Mr. Editor, that you try to get her to become a frequent contributor to your Journal, for I feel satisfied "Melissa" could assist her beekeeping sisters very much indeed by giving her experiences. We want to hear from those who have made a success of beekeeping, and to learn under what conditions they have worked, together with the value of and the kind of bee forage in their districts that they rely upon. Even failures are worth recording, provided their situations and conditions are explained.

"Melissa" has explained exactly how by a little ingenuity the work of lifting heavy supers can be avoided, which "W. B. K." has overlooked. I maintain that there is absolutely nothing in connection with apiary work but what a young woman can do without the assistance of a man, "well trained" or otherwise. The former manageress of the Ruakura Government Apiary was a very little lady; I do not think her weight could have been more than between seven and eight stone, and she was handicapped by having an injured right hand. Yet she could do all the work with or without assistance, and remove heavy supers. We have had in all about thirty-five young lady cadettes at the Government Apiaries, and only one of the number was compelled to give up the work. She was of a very delicate constitution, and in consequence a sting had a very severe effect upon her. Although she persevered for some time the evil did not abate, and it seemed too dangerous to continue her work among the bees.

It does not pay to make hives throughout by hand; it is far cheaper to get them in the flat from the manufacturers, and, moreover, they are much more accurately cut by machinery. If "Melissa" obtained a hive cramp and her hives in the flat she would have no difficulty at all in putting them together accurately. All the hives at the Government Apiaries are made in this manner and painted by young women.

There is just one piece of advice I would offer to "Melissa," that is, to discard making increase by natural swarming, and instead of only doing "a little queen-raising in between whites," make a practice of raising queens from your best colonies each season, and use these in "dividing" for increase. This method is far and away better than allowing all your colonies, whether good, bad, or indifferent, to breed their own queens.

I have also a good word to say of (Miss?) "Glenco's" article in your last issue.

Epsom.

J. HOPKINS.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I think the High Commissioner's criticism on the display of New Zealand honey at the late Dairymen's Show in London is not altogether to the point, seeing that it could not, in the nature of things, have been a representative one of the Dominion. Entries were confined to beekeepers or firms of beekeepers, Associations being barred, who produce five or more tons of honey annually. How many of these are there in New Zealand? I venture to say not a score. The honey which was sent was probably put on the bench just as it had been received, very likely in a semi-granulated condition. That which was substituted by a Tooley Street firm for some that did not arrive in time may have been overheated in the process of liquifying. I hope, therefore, the High Commissioner, prior to the next show, will see to it that these unnecessary restrictions are removed, so that Major Norton will be in a position to show what New Zealand can do.—I am, etc.,

VINDEK.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I was very pleased to see in your January number that a movement is on foot to provide the English poor with some of our New Zealand honey.

I may say it has been my practice for several years past to send one or two cases of 2-lb. tins to Dr. Barnardo's Homes, and I trust what I send this year may be augmented by honey from other beekeepers. I think, Sir, you will agree with me that the children should be our first charge, not only in this most deserving institution, but in others of similar character; also in children's hospitals and convalescent homes throughout the United Kingdom.

I hope this movement will not be a spasmodic one on account of the present war, but will be continued from year to year, at any rate as far as the children are concerned.—I am, etc.,

VINDEK.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I see in the Journal you persist in sending me that W. B. Bray has been giving you a rub as to what are the inspectors doing now. That is exactly the same question that I am going to ask, because the first thing the Association ought and will have to do is to compel every individual beekeeper to have his or her colonies registered, and until that is done foul-brood cannot be stamped out. I have seen the inspector once in four years, and I know a few very careless beekeepers who should have the inspector to see them ever so often, and either compel them to be more careful or otherwise destroy their bees. If this Association intends to get the support of all beekeepers (which it should have, and will have), it must take drastic measures to eradicate this dreaded disease foul-brood. If a beekeeper has only one hive it should be registered, and, more than that, there should be an inspector appointed in each district, and he should be none other than a beekeeper, and a very prudent beekeeper. I personally know

of a few people who are so careless that with the advanced way of beekeeping they persist in the old way—namely, kerosene box beekeeping.

My subscription has not yet been paid, and is not likely to be if we cannot have a very strict inspection of this and all other districts to try and stamp out this rotten disease which so many people who call themselves beekeepers are ignorant about, and I would like to see Mr. Bray's suggestions carried out, and the effect would be a very pleasing one.

I trust you will try and stir this matter up well, and if an inspector will visit me I will give him the names of a few beekeepers whose colonies, I'm sure, are rotten.—I am, etc.,

R. J. BIBBY.

[The Department of Agriculture supply the following figures in connection with apiary inspection in this district—January, June, 1909; January, March, August, 1912; September, 1914—which, considering the difficulties under which the inspectors work, has been above rather than below the average. We agree with our contributor that a more strict inspection of the apiaries of the Dominion is necessary. The districts under the control of the inspectors, however, are so large that they cannot do justice to the work. The Apiaries Act of 1913 makes provision for the appointment of local inspectors. Beekeepers in each district can very materially assist the Department by allowing themselves to be appointed as honorary local inspectors. Their duties would include the giving of help and advice to those beekeepers who have diseased apiaries, and who may not know how to help themselves, and in the case of the careless and indifferent to report them to the proper authorities, when prompt action would be taken. It is easy to keep your own apiary clear if you will assist your neighbour in keeping his clear also.—Editor.]

### HONEY FOR THE DISTRESSED POOR OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Now that the extracting season is in full swing and we have honey available, it is opportune that an effort be made to collect and ship the first contribution of honey for this very laudable object. If you are prepared to contribute even a very small quantity, will you please send a note to one of the Secretaries of the Branches of the National Beekeepers' Association stating how much you can spare, the class of package, and when it will be available. Arrangements for shipment can then be made, and instructions will be sent you when and where to forward it.

It would be a good plan if some enthusiast were to canvass each district. We might even have district contributions. In order to save expense in the Home Land, and to ensure a wide distribution, the most suitable packages would be 1, 2, and 5lb. pots, tins, or packets. We shall be glad also of contributions of cash to pay the cost of shipment.

R. W. BRICKELL,  
Secretary National Beekeepers' Association.

## Good Things from Everywhere.

*"In the Multitude of Councillors there is Wisdom."*

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Our New Zealand beekeeping friends are discussing Home markets and advertising. From the quality of their communications to the N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal there is no lack of gray matter under their hats.—"Western Honey Bee."

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The weather here has been very hot and dry, and our honey crop will not be much over quarter crop. The contract with the B. and D. Association is the one bright spot in a very dull outlook.—J. R.

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At this date our district is as dry as the Arabian Desert. I suppose we cannot expect to live in clover every year. The Journal is arriving regularly. I should not care to be without it.—R. H. N.

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From reports to hand, it would appear that the output of honey in New Zealand this season will be a very long way below the average, owing to the continued drought in most districts. It follows, therefore, that the prices obtainable should be considerably higher than has ever before obtained. We strongly recommend our beekeeping friends to hold out for increased rates. No first-grade honey should be sold for less than 5d. per lb. wholesale in bulk, nor for less than 7d. per lb. retail, plus the cost of packages. We believe that these prices will be easily obtained.

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What it takes to Produce a Quart of Honey.—A bee culturist contributes some interesting data to "Popular Mechanics" concerning the work of bees in gathering honey. He calculates that a quart of honey represents no less than 48,000 miles of flight between the hives and the flowers; also, that in January, which is the busiest month of the season, the workers of one colony easily cover as much as twice the distance between the earth and the moon in one day. The distance of the moon from the earth is 237,600 miles, therefore the gathering of about ten quarts of honey means, totalling the flight of all the workers of the colony, a flight of some 475,200 miles.

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Honey for Export.—It is important to remember that the contract for the shipment of honey to Bristol calls for first-grades only, and that these are defined as white, light amber, and medium amber colours, special and prime qualities, obtaining grade points of 88 upwards. An examination of the Government Grade Note (Journal, page 129) goes to show that 42 of the points obtainable are under the control of the grower—that is to say, that careful manipulation and packing will go a long way towards placing honey which would otherwise rank low down well up on the list, and among the special and prime qualities. The increased prices obtainable for the good qualities makes the little additional trouble well worth while.

Department of Agriculture, Industries & Commerce,  
Wellington, 5th February, 1915.

The Secretary National Beekeepers' Association, Dunedin.

Dear Sir,—It has been arranged that the following stores will be the only stores at which honey will be graded by Government Graders during the present season:—

The New Zealand Express Co.'s Store, Auckland.

The New Zealand Co-operative Honey Producers' Association's Store, Normanby.

The Wellington Meat Export Co.'s Store, Wellington.

The Lyttelton Harbour Board's Store, Lyttelton.

The Timaru Cold Stores and Ice Co.'s Store, Timaru.

Agricultural Department's Store, Railway Yard, Dunedin.

When forwarding honey, please advise the Government Grader, care Department of Agriculture, at any of the following places, as the case may be:—Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin.

The Storekeeper at each of the above stores will collect from the shippers the charges before goods are delivered out of store after grading. In all other respects the procedure of last season will be followed.

Yours truly,

(Signed) T. W. KIRK,  
Director of Orchards, &c.

### HONEY CROP PROSPECTS.

The Director of the Orchards, Gardens and Apiaries Division has received from apiary instructors the following reports concerning honey crop prospects:—

Auckland.—The honey crop in the Auckland Province will be below the average, although the recent good rains may in some districts cause a late flow of nectar, and possibly slightly improve the prospects. Prices are likely to improve owing to the high price of sugar somewhat curtailing jam-making, thus causing an increased demand for honey.—G. V. Westbrooke. February 1st, 1915.

Wellington.—During the last week the weather has been exceptionally good, and in consequence large quantities of honey have been gathered by the bees. I anticipate an average season in my district.—F. A. Jacobsen. February 1st, 1915.

Christchurch.—The extracting season has commenced with many apiarists, and so far it is estimated the crop has been below the average in most districts.—L. Bowman. February 5th, 1915.

Dunedin.—Reports to hand point to a fair crop. Weather conditions are totally against beekeepers. Extracting operations delayed generally. It is not anticipated that there will be a large surplus over local needs for export. Market oversupplied with second-grade Canterbury honey, rejected export lines. New season's sections are meeting with ready sale.—E. A. Earp. February 3rd, 1915.



Applications are invited from BEEKEEPERS ONLY  
for SHARES in this important enterprise.

## NEW ZEALAND CO-OPERATIVE HONEY PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

CAPITAL - - £3,000

This Association is a Co-operative Organisation, established for the purpose of marketing the honey product of the Dominion solely in the interests of producers.

It has taken over from the National Beekeepers' Association an offer received by it from the Bristol and Dominions Producers' Association, Ltd., and has made a firm contract with the latter Association for the delivery of not less than One Hundred Tons nor more than Five Hundred Tons per annum of High-grade Honey, for a term of three years, on a fixed guarantee of a return of 4d. per lb. The price is nett for Honey delivered f.o.b. at main ports, less packing expenses and 5 per cent. commission. The Producers' Association, while guaranteeing a return of 4d. per lb., also undertake to pay as much larger a sum as possible, the impression being that up to 5d. per lb. will be forthcoming.

The experience of honey producers in the past throughout New Zealand, as far as export to Great Britain is concerned, is that the results have not been particularly satisfactory. The honey has been dumped on to the Home market, and handled in the rough-and-ready style generally accorded to overseas consignments. Under the contract above referred to, the Bristol Association receive the honey in bulk at their warehouse in Bristol, where provision will be made for its bottling and packing in such a way as will meet the requirements of the retail market in Great Britain. It will be sold bearing a uniform and attractive label, and with a continuous supply of a standard quality. It will doubtless command top prices. In this way the honey producers of New Zealand will receive the bulk of the profit instead of the middleman, as heretofore.

The New Zealand Co-operative Honey Producers' Association, Ltd., have now before them the task of raising this large quantity of honey, and invite the co-operation of the beekeepers throughout the Dominion in taking full advantage of the splendid terms which are now before them.

In order to deal with the proposition in a business-like way, the honey will only be received from members of the Association, every one of whom will be required to undertake the supply of a certain minimum quantity of honey per annum for three years. Shares will be allotted in accordance with the average quantity of honey to be supplied by each producer in the proportion of one Share for every 4 hundredweight of Honey delivered. The value of the Shares is £2 each. No deposit or other payment is required, as the deduction of one-eighth of a penny per lb. on the returns received from each shareholder's honey will be applied to the payment of the shares until such time as the shares are fully paid up, when no further deduction will be made, and honey may then be shipped by the producer in any quantity free of share deduction.

As it is anticipated that the shares will be fully applied for, it has been decided to give preference to applications from members of the National Beekeepers' Association. Those who are not yet members of this Organisation should become so without delay, and thus secure preference in their application for shares in the above Company.

An application form for shares will be posted on receipt of request by any of the following:—

Mr. H. W. GILLING, Chairman of Directors N.Z. Co-op. Honey Producers' Association, Ltd., Matapu, Taranaki.

Mr. F. C. BAINES, Secretary N.Z. Co-op. Honey Producers' Association, Ltd., Normanby, Taranaki.

Mr. R. W. BRICKELL, Secretary National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z., P.O. Box 572, Dunedin.

And the Secretaries of all the District Associations.

## THICK HONEY AND WAX PRODUCTION.

It has been suggested lately that in districts where the honey is so thick as to be unextractable it would pay the beekeeper to run more for wax than for honey. Of course, the bees will not build comb without filling it with honey, and it has occurred to some that the honey might be fed back to induce more comb-building. I have several suggestions to make to the beekeepers of the manuka scrub lands in the Auckland Province, as it is there that the thick honey is found most.

It will not pay to provide full sheets of foundation for a comb that is going to be broken up the same season; neither would it be advisable to use starters, as the bees will not go up to these in a super, but will build upwards from the bottom bars, the combs more often than not being in a hopeless jumble. Though I have not had the opportunity of making any experiments, I believe it would be possible to remove the honey from the combs by shaving them down to the mid-rib with the uncapping knife. It would practically leave the original sheet of foundation, and the comb could be returned to the hive. If the flow was still on, it would be built up again; if not, it would be cleaned up and could be used the following season. The knives would need to be kept thoroughly sharp for the work. As the thick honey will not go through a strainer readily, it would be necessary to heat it up sufficiently to melt the wax, and probably the "Severin" capping melter described by Mr. F. C. Baines at the last Conference would do the work satisfactorily. The honey being already so dark and strongly flavoured, the application of heat would not be likely to affect it to any extent. It would be more likely to improve it by ridding it of all air-bubbles and surplus moisture (if any) which, by causing fermentation, have done more than either colour or flavour to bring manuka honey into disrepute. A good sample of manuka honey is as much like the real heather honey of Scotland (worth 1/6 to 2/- per lb.) as it is possible to get. I once gave a Scotsman two samples of manuka to taste, asking him which was the heather. He said, "Man, they're so much alike I canna tell." He never doubted but that one was heather until I gave him a sample of the real stuff. Why could not our manuka honey be sold at Home as New Zealand heather honey?

I would advise any beekeeper in the Auckland Province to tin his honey off as soon as possible. If the honey remains in a tank for a few days, it will likely absorb moisture from the atmosphere. We in the south are quite safe in leaving our honey in tanks for weeks, as the humidity of our air is lower. Even in the warmest weather the Auckland air is more likely to impart moisture to the honey than to absorb it. It is the layer at the surface which becomes thin, and is the last to be drawn off. It will be sure to ferment and burst the tins, thus spoiling the appearance of a whole line, and giving it a bad name.

In dealing with thick honey, the great consideration is the amount of labour that is required, and in the above suggestion there is very little more required than there is with the extractor, and certainly less than with other methods that have been suggested. There is no reason why the beekeeper

in the manuka lands should not turn out his share of good marketable honey besides wax. The Government graders may grade it very low, but if the Bristol and Dominion Producers' Company can sell it as "heather" honey it may bring the best price of all.

Mr. Lenz, of Masterton, used to get a small quantity of thick honey at one or two yards, and his transport facilities being convenient, he used this honey for winter and spring stores at other yards. Where there is absolute certainty that there is no disease present, it is a good plan for the beekeeper with several yards.

W. B. B.

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### HONEY DISPLAY.

There was a big display of nearly a ton of honey at the Thames Valley A. and P. and Horticultural Show at Te Aroha on the 28th and 29th January. This was staged in a commercial form by the A. P. and H. Association, the contributors being mostly members of the Waikato Beekeepers' Association living in the district. People's Day, the 29th, was the wettest since last May, in spite of which over £10 worth of honey was sold to visitors. Had the day been fine, in all probability the whole lot would have been disposed of.

This is no doubt one of the best methods of advertising honey. There was a keen contest on the competitive bench for extracted honey, the winner of the first prize only securing it by half a point (Government grading) above the other competitors. As the entries were confined to one 2-lb. jar, it is probable half the visitors to the show passed by without noticing.

There is a good demand in Auckland for beeswax at 1/6 to 1/7 per lb.

W. H. TEED.

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### THE BEE.

(By Walt Mason, in "The Beekeepers' Review.")

The busy little bee is called a model by some bores,  
 For it has never loafed or stalled while doing up its chores;  
 It scoots around in frantic haste, and bumbles as it flies;  
 It lets no moment go to waste, and that we know is wise.  
 And as from flower to flower it bolts, unless you stand aside,  
 It sends about a million volts of lightning through your hide.  
 Now industry is bully goods but it should seasoned be,  
 E'en in your most impatient moods, with tact and courtesy.  
 Because the bee has lots of biz, it has no moral right  
 To make its red-hot stinger whiz into me out of sight.  
 The bee's no model for the gent who'd do the proper thing,  
 For he, though on his business bent, will not bystanders sting;  
 He captivates by winning ways the ancient and the young,  
 And as he stings no other jays, he'll not by them be stung.  
 The bee is always out for scraps, its head is always sore,  
 It shoots its venom into chaps it never saw before;  
 And e'en the ladies and the kids it stings as home it flees,  
 And so we ought to put the lids upon the humble bees.

## HONEY COOKERY.

(By W. B. K.)

"Melissa" takes exception to some remarks in my last paper; "Glenco" also is on the other side; but wouldn't it be a queer world if all held the same opinions!

I have gained one point, however. Our brother beekeepers no longer hold the monopoly of the articles in the Journal, and as the women take more interest in the conduct of it, so will the number of subscribers increase, and the continuation of our valuable paper be assured.

My subject this time is strictly for the ladies. Will the sterner sex please pass on to the next article.

Cakes, etc., sweetened with honey instead of sugar have quite a distinctive flavour, and if once we became accustomed to the different method of working, honey would quickly come into general use in cooking. Honey cakes, as well as tasting extra good, have such a rich brown colouring that the very appearance tempts anyone to taste.

A great advantage is that cakes which have honey in them do not become dry as quickly as those made with sugar, and for this reason a certain amount of honey is used by experts in cake-making.

A trouble to a beginner is the stickiness, and perhaps worse still the wetness, which must always be taken into consideration. Honey-cakes, and especially biscuits, must never be too soft, or the result will be disastrous. As they heat in the oven they will become very much softer, and will run all over the place. Granulated or thick honey must not be used; it must be thoroughly liquified. The best plan for a novice is to get some reliable recipes, and practise on them, keeping strictly to directions.

I have not tried jam-making with honey, although I did attempt marmalade once. The result was what I expected—a horrid failure.

For a start here is a nice biscuit recipe, which will suit most people:—

**Honey Biscuits.**—Two tablespoons butter, 6 tablespoons honey, 6 tablespoons flour, 1 teaspoon mixed spice,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon soda. Dissolve soda in a little warm water; mix honey and butter, and warm to melt it; add to this the dry ingredients gradually, then the soda; cover, and let it stand till next day; roll out thin and cut into shapes; bake in a slow oven till of a light brown colour.

**Honey Fruit Cake.**—Take 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups honey, two-thirds cup butter,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sweet milk, 3 eggs well beaten, 3 cups flour, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 2 cups raisins, 1 teaspoon each of cloves and cinnamon.

**Honey Tea Cake.**—One cup honey,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sour cream, 2 well-beaten eggs,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup butter, 2 cups flour,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon soda, 1 teaspoon cream of tartar. Bake in a moderate oven.

As a filling for layer cakes this is not easily beaten:—Take the quantity required of honey (granulated), work with a spoon till soft enough to spread easily, then mix with it an equal quantity of chopped dates or raisins.

I might give more recipes, but do not wish to take up too much space. Anyone interested enough can quite easily do as I have done, and turn their favourite sugar recipes into honey ones, and I have no hesitation in saying that they will be delighted with the result.

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### BEESWAX AND FOUNDATION.

(By W. B. Bray.)

According to the last census returns the amount of wax produced in one year was 28,068lbs., an average of two-fifths of a pound per hive. Now that large quantities of wax are made into comb foundation in New Zealand, the question has arisen as to whether we can produce enough wax to make all the foundation required as well as to supply the general trade demand for wax. I do not agree with those who think that production is decreasing with the passing away of the box hive. On the contrary, I believe it will increase. Box hive owners did not always save the wax, and when they did attempt it they recovered less than half through lack of proper appliances. The frame hive beekeeper as a rule wastes very little. There are many of the larger beekeepers who produce about a pound a hive each year. Putting the average down at half a pound and allowing for the continual increase in the number of frame hives, it will be seen that the production is more likely to increase.

There is a duty of one penny per pound on beeswax, but while it is plentiful here and scarce elsewhere this does not help the beekeeper to get any more for his wax. Just now the surplus can be used in making foundation, thus keeping the price of wax up and reducing the cost of foundation. But should the wax become scarce here and plentiful elsewhere, the local manufacturer will have to shut up shop because of the penny duty on the raw material—the foundation itself being free of duty. The beekeeper gets an extra penny then for wax, but he pays it out again when he buys imported foundation. Such a tariff system is admirably adapted to driving industry out of the country. The beekeepers of New Zealand should get this anomaly removed before the necessity arises.

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### SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The following subscriptions have been received since last issue:—Messrs. Chas. Bishoprick, W. L. Bird, S. E. Bluett, A. E. Boshier, A. A. Butt, H. C. Bagnall, John Crist, L. A. Clark, A. V. Dennis, R. E. Eagle, R. Greenless, J. Gordon, C. L. Grant, G. A. Hancox, Chas. Harling, H. C. Jones, S. H. Knapp, B. S. Morgan, D. H. McCulloch, J. McLennan, Miss W. Niven, Messrs. J. K. Parker, Page & McGregor, T. Pelham, Dr. Pairman, Messrs. R. E. Richardson, R. Reed, Miss A. Simmonds, Messrs. A. A. Shaw, Geo. Saville, G. M. Scott, J. Sillifant, F. G. Vowless, A. H. E. Wood (6/-), Walters, Mrs. D. Wadsworth, Messrs. Watson Bros., Geo. Ward.

### MAETERLINK AS A HARVEST HAND.

Word has come to this country, by way of "London Times," that Maurice Maeterlink, Belgium's charming poet, who sings so beautifully of the "honey-sweet hive and its humming inhabitants," has become a farm hand! Think of it! He says that he is fifty years old—too old to be accepted on the fighting corps, and as the crops needed attention—harvesting and threshing—he felt he must do something to aid his beleaguered country. So forth he fared to do yeoman service as a field worker. Overcome by the horror of the war, he says that he cannot write of it. He says, "I have tried to write, but I find it impossible. I began a series of articles on the war, but nothing has come of the effort. I feel so restless all the time." He added: "The waste of it! To think that after men have battled so successfully against disease and natural forces, they should fall themselves before this welter of carnage!" Even now, as a relief from the carnage of war, we feel sure his mind must turn as never before with deep longing to the quiet, peaceful hum of the bees amid the heather—if, indeed, there be any heather or bees remaining intact in that oppressed land that is being so ruthlessly trampled under the gory heel of the God of War.—E. G. B., in "The Beekeepers' Review."

### FOUL BROOD AND OTHER DISEASES OF BEES.

(Extract from Thirteenth Annual Report of the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association.)

(Continued from last issue.)

#### Treatment.

"A beekeeper who does not discover foul brood, before his nostrils remind him that there is something wrong with his bees, is not the proper person to treat the case." Dr. Howard, in his valuable book on foul brood, states: "I regard the use of all drugs in the treatment of foul brood as a useless waste of time and material, wholly ineffectual, inviting ruin and total loss of bees. Any method which has not for its object the entire removal of all infectious material beyond the reach of both bees and brood, will prove detrimental and destructive, and surely encourage the recurrence of the disease." In Wisconsin I have tried many methods of treatment, and cured some cases with each method; but the one that never fails, if carefully followed, and that commends itself, is the McEvory treatment. Canada's foul brood inspector has cured foul brood by the wholesale—thousands of cases.

#### McEvory Treatment.

"In the honey season, when the bees are gathering honey freely, remove the combs in the evening and shake the bees into their own hives; give them frames with comb-foundation starters, and let them build comb for four days. The bees will

make the starters into comb during the four days, and store the diseased honey in them, which they took with them from the old comb. Then, in the evening of the fourth day, take out the new combs and give them comb-foundation (full sheets) to work out, and then the cure will be complete. By this method of treatment all the diseased honey is removed from the bees before the full sheets of foundation are worked out. All the old foul-brood combs must be burned or carefully made into wax after they are removed from the hives, and all the new combs made out of the starters during the four days must be burned or made into wax, on account of the diseased honey that would be stored in them. All the curing or treating of diseased colonies should be done in the evening, so as not to have any robbing done, or cause any of the bees from the diseased colonies to mix and go with the bees of healthy colonies. By doing all the work in the evening, it gives the bees a chance to settle down nicely before morning, and then there is no confusion or trouble. This same method of curing colonies of foul brood can be carried on at any time from May to October, when the bees are not getting any honey, by feeding plenty of sugar syrup in the evenings to take the place of the honey flow. It will start the bees robbing and spread the disease to work with foul brood colonies in warm days when the bees are not gathering honey, and for that reason all work must be done in the evenings when no bees are flying.

"When the diseased colonies are weak in bees, put the bees, two, three, or four colonies together, so as to get a good-sized colony to start the cure with, as it does not pay to spend time fussing with little weak colonies. When the bees are not gathering honey, any apiary can be cured of foul brood by removing the diseased combs in the evening and giving the bees frames with comb-foundation starters on. Then, also, in the evening feed the bees plenty of sugar syrup, and they will draw out the foundation and store the diseased honey which they took with them from the old combs. On the fourth evening remove the new combs made out of the starters, and give the bees full sheets of comb-foundation, and feed plenty of sugar syrup each evening, until every colony is in first-class order. Make the syrup out of granulated sugar, putting one pound of water to every pound of sugar, and bring it to a boil. As previously stated, all the old comb must be burned or made into wax, and so must all new combs made during the four days. No colony is cured of foul brood by the use of any drug."

A. I. Root, of Medina, Ohio, says:—"The starvation plan, in connection with burning the combs and frames and building the hives, has worked the best in treating foul brood. It never appeared after each treatment, though it did in some cases where the hives were honey-stained and not boiled, thus confirming the theory or fact of spores."

All the difference from the McEvory treatment that I practise is this: I dig a deep pit on level ground near the diseased apiary, and after getting a fire in the pit, such diseased combs, frames, etc., as are to be burned are burned in this pit in the evening, and then the fresh earth from the pit returned to cover all from sight. Often I use some kerosene oil, a little at



a time being poured on old brood-combs or those having much honey in, as they are hard to burn. If diseased combs with honey in are burned on the surface of the soil there is great danger; the honey, when heated a little, will run like water on the soil, and in the morning the robber bees will be busy taking home the diseased honey that was not heated enough to kill germs of foul brood.

I also cage the queen while the bees are on the five or six strips of foundation. It helps to keep the colony from deserting the hive and going to other colonies.

R. L. Taylor, Michigan University Experimental Apiary, reports: "The plan that the colony be shaken out into another hive after being allowed to build comb for four days, I have proven, in 100 cases, to be unnecessary."

In Wisconsin I, too, have cured several cases by the one transferring, when honey was not coming in very freely, but it is better, and a great saving of time to both bees and owner, to exchange in three or four days those foundation starters for full sheets of foundation. Diseased brood-combs and those with honey in, if melted in a sun or solar extractor, the wax, honey or residue is not hot enough to kill germs of foul brood. This I have proven by several experiments. It must be boiled and well stirred while boiling to be safe.

I do not believe in or practise burning any property, such as hives, bees, beeswax, or honey, that can be safely treated and saved. Many times it is poor economy to save all, and so many beekeepers are not so situated as to keep all diseased material from robber bees while taking care of it. The best and only safe way is to burn the diseased combs and frames.

### Utah.

Utah has county inspectors, and from one who has remarkable success I copy the report of his method of treatment:

"Wherever found it should be dealt with earnestly and with dispatch. If the colony is weak, I recommend smothering the bees, and in order to do this without letting a bee escape, take a tablespoonful of sulphur and place it in the hive entrance of the hives; if there is any breeze, turn the hive so it will blow in the entrance. Then fire the sulphur and it will soon kill the bees. This should be done early in the morning, before any of the bees are flying, as one bee escaping from the hive might carry the disease to any colony with which it may take up its abode. If the colony is a strong one, I would keep the entrance partly closed so as to prevent any other bees from getting in. Then as soon as fruit blossoms come out so the bees can obtain honey, I treat them. I procure an empty box of any kind, so it is clean, then find the queen, put her in a screen wire cage, which is easily made. Take a small piece of screen, roll it up, and tie a string around either end; cork up one end, then place the queen and a few workers for company in the cage, and place in the other end cork. Put same in this box, and shake all the bees out of their hive into this box. This must be done in the evening, when no bees are flying. Keep the queen in this box for 24 to 48 hours, allowing the bees to fly in and out as they please. Next take a clean



hive, with good, healthy combs or foundation, and shake bees into it, letting the queen go, and they will be free from disease. The old combs are melted into wax, bringing same to a good boil. Often washing with boiling water any hives or implements that might contain disease. Whenever strictly followed, this has effected a cure."—C. Wilcox, Emery Co., Utah.

### Pickled Brood.

Some seasons pickled brood is quite bad among bees, and in a few cases I have known it to reduce large colonies, even large apiaries, to doubtful hopes; but those same colonies, after I gave them treatment, were in a month free from disease. Sometimes it takes as careful handling as if foul brood. I do not believe it is contagious, for all I have seen 60 colonies in one apiary badly reduced by it. As an experiment, one of my out-apiaries had 50 colonies at one time with pickled brood. I treated them, and all were soon free from dead brood. At the same time I took ten of the worst brood-combs, where at least two-thirds of the brood were dead, and placed these combs in other strong, healthy colonies. They at once cleaned out the dead brood, and reared as nice brood as one could ask for.

(To be continued.)

The honey from paper pots can be put upon the dining table in attractive form by slightly warming the pot and turning it upside down to empty the block of granulated honey into the honey dish. The nasty sticky way of taking honey out of tin cans has always seemed to me to spoil the chances of sales to some extent.—R.B.

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Select Tested	10s.	18s.	25s.	42s.
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Full Colony on 10 Frames	£1 18s.

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**BEES Free from Disease**, and bred from good stock. All care taken to ensure safe transit, but no responsibility taken with the colonies. I will, however replace a dead queen, from the mail, if the box is returned intact.

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Try one on each hive. Feed a little each morning early with a syrup of "two of water to one of sugar," and see how the bees will forgo ahead to the point of storing a surplus in most cases.

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